THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NHFC has taken congnizance of the complaint dated nil of Shri Akram Raza Khan. The matter is under consideration of the Commission.

(c) to (e) Transplantation of Human Organs Act passed by the Parliament come into force with effect from 5.2.95. It provides for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of Human Organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in Human Organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act provides that any person, who, transplantation, conducts, associates with or helps in any manner in the removal of any human organ without authority, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees. If a Registered Medical Practitioner is convicted, his name can be removed from the Register of the State Medical Council, for a period of two years for the first offence and permanently, for a subsequent offence. Two States viz. Bihar and Mizoram have not adopted the above mentioned act so far inspite of repeated reminders at the highest level. The punitive action against the culprits can be taken by the State Governments which have adopted the above mentioned Act, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Birth of Underweight Children

5091. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 33 per cent new born babies in India are under weight at the time of birth and as a result, they do not survive;

(b) whether it is also a fact that weight of babies at the time of birth affects their future weight, which can make them suffer from diseases throughout their life and the cause of less weight of a baby is his mother's health; and

(c) if so, the details of new, effective and useful scheme, if any being implemented for riddance from such weaknesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Studies conducted by National Institute of Nutrition in various parts of the country on different population groups have indicated that about 30% of infants born in the country have low birth weight (weight less than 2500 gm.).

Low birth babies being under-nourished are susceptible to under nutrition, infection, diseases and higher mortality. The contributory factors are maternal health and nutritional status, inter pregnancy intervals, age of mother and illiteracy.

(c) Government of India has been implementing various health and nutritional programmes to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable population i.e. children, pregnant and lactating mothers. Prevention of nutritional anemia forms an intergral part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of Department of Family Welfare. The other important programmes are:

(i) Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System;

(ii) Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes;

(iii) Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding:

(iv) Supplementary Feeding Programmes.

Rising Population in Uttar Pradesh

5092. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to check rising population, the Uttar Pradesh Government propose to announce New Population Policy in the State in the next three to four months;

(b) whether the new policy propose to envisage denial of Assembly and Parliamentary election tickets to persons not following the norm of small family;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to ask other States and Union territories to follow suit of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.